



CAREER and TECHNICAL EDUCATION UPDATE January 1, 2014

Montana Career Information System (MCIS) Update

MCIS staff are busy doing webinars and face-to-face training, specifically focusing on site administration tools. Site administration tools provide schools and workforce development agencies the ability to assist students and job-seekers with career development and education and employment plans. It also provides access to data that can be used in writing grants, annual reports, used at parent teacher conferences, IEPs, and reports to school boards. The results have been amazing. There has been a 250% increase in the use of these tools since the beginning of the school year.

The latest edition of the Montana Career Resources newsletter includes information on how to reset multiple passwords easily in MCIS using the site administration tools. This added new feature will be very helpful for teachers and counselors working with groups of students.

Principals in every middle school and high school received letters in December commending their school on the use of MCIS. Included in the letters was the login information to the school's site, the number of portfolios, and the number of times the system has been used. Brochures listing the grade specific publications available were also included. Our hope is principals will be aware of all the great work teachers and counselors are doing providing career information to students. We've already heard from several principals excited about having access to these free resources.

We have also created posters that could be used to encourage teachers to use MCIS in the classroom. Posted to a bulletin board in the staff lounge these posters could generate interest in MCIS's use in the classroom. If you are interested in getting some posters, contact us at mcrn@mt.gov. There is a video that can be used to show how easily MCIS can be incorporated into classrooms. The video shows how to use MCIS to make the topic of lifecycles of insects more interesting. The link is: <http://mcis.dli.mt.gov/elearn/realcheck/story.html>

Subscribe to the monthly electronic newsletter to stay current with the latest career resources, training, and announcements at <http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/career/?PAGEID=3&SUBID=300>

MCIS information submitted by MCIS Director, Annette Miller, phone: (406) 444-2741;

Email: anmiller@mt.gov. For training requests or technical support, contact Pam Boggs or Donetta McDowell at (800) 541-3904 or email mcrn@mt.gov.

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

No update at this time.

FFA



As winter break winds down for college students and the state officers get into the groove of their new class schedules, we continue to be busy. The State FFA officers are working on chapter visits as January comes to an end. They all spent their winter breaks traveling around the state and visiting local FFA chapters. Putting hundreds of miles on and seeing hundreds of students it is a time for them to build excitement for the rest of their year.

January is packed full of FFA events around the state. Due dates are starting to pop up as we have been preparing for our state convention in March. We will have a Governor's meeting January 13th in Helena with all the other CTSOs, it is a great opportunity for the officers to be in Helena, talk with the Governor or Lt. Governor and also a chance for us to make a visit to the Department of Agriculture to visit with some of supporters and sponsors. Then we head to KMON in Great Falls the third weekend of the month, which is held in conjunction



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with the Maggie. There will be one state contest, the Meats Evaluation Career Development Event, along with other CDES, livestock, mechanics, agronomy and sales. During this same weekend the state officer will meet with the Board of Directors for our January board meeting, followed by a planning day for state convention with the state officer's parents. It is a busy, fun and productive weekend for Montana FFA.

January is when we at the office really get into the details of our state convention, which will be held in Great Falls March 26-29. It is a busy month for us as we welcome the New Year.

We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of your teachers, advisors, students and staff.

**FFA information submitted by Montana FFA State Director, Amanda Carlson, phone: (406) 994-7050;
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Submitted by

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Business Education

Business Education Specialist Invited to Present at National Association Conference

Eric Swenson, Business Education Specialist within the Career, Technical, and Adult Education Division of the Office of Public Instruction, recently accepted an invitation to present a workshop during the National Business Education Association's western-regional conference in Portland, Oregon. The 2014 Western Business Education Association Conference will be held February 13-17.

His presentation, *Instructional Strategies for Engaging Learners P-D-Q (Painless for students, ideas already Developed, and Quick to implement)*, will focus on providing business education professionals at the middle school, secondary, post-secondary, and university levels with activities they can use within their curriculum to actively engage students in their learning. The workshop will focus on the three areas of activating strategies, cognitive strategies, and summarizing strategies. Various activities and instructional tools to address each of the three strategies will be presented with a couple of the different activities engaging attendees as they are presented in a hands-on style and related to the various subject areas of the business education curriculum.

The Western Business Education Association as the western regional affiliate of the National Business Education Association and seeks to share educational experiences that will prepare individuals to excel as consumers, workers, and citizens in our economic systems and understand the workings of and opportunities to excel as they function in our competitive global economy. The Western Business Education Association is comprised of the 15 western states and Pacific territories as well as the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon.

Montana BPA



successful.

Happy Holidays from Montana Business Professionals of America. Montana BPA has been busy with Regional Conferences the month of December. Region 7 completed their conference on December 9 in Baker and Region 6 just held their two-day regional conference at Billings City College on December 17-18. According to regional coordinators both conferences were very

Below is the Regional Conference schedule for the other 6 Regions for the month of January:

Region 4	January 6, 2014	Helena (College of Technology)*
Region 5	January 7, 2014	Wilsall*
Region 1	January 13, 2014	Kalispell (Flathead Valley Community College)
Region 2	January 15, 2014	Missoula



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Region 3 January 20, 2014 Great Falls*
Region 8 January 22, 2014 Sidney*
*Regional Conferences I plan to attend in January.

All of the Montana CTSO Advisors/Directors met with T.J. Eyer in Bozeman on December 9 at the Bank of Montana for their second quarterly meeting. The agenda included discussion of various activities each vocational organization was completing to meet the goals of the two-year grant. Each state advisor gave a summary of activities his/her organization was working on to help the other state advisors with ideas for future activities to meet the stipulations of the grant.

We are beginning to gear up for the BPA State Leadership Conference will be held on March 9-11, 2014 at the Billings City College, Holiday Inn, and Billings Hotel. Registration for the State Conference will open on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, and I will be sending out an update letter to all chapter advisors within the next week giving complete details/instructions regarding the State Conference. Be watching for your update Letter. Much of this State Conference information is also posted on the Montana BPA website at www.bpamt.org. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Montana BPA information submitted by Montana BPA State Director, Becky DePuydt, phone: (406) 674-5593; cell phone: (406) 390-5196, Email: beckydepuydt@bpamt.org

Montana DECA

 No update at this time.

DECA information submitted by Montana DECA State Director, Krista Bergstrom, phone: (406) 750-1988; Email: kberg151@gmail.com.

Submitted by

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Family and Consumer Sciences Education

No update at this time.

Montana FCCLA

No update at this time.



FCCLA information submitted by Montana FCCLA State Director, Nicole Wanago, phone: (406) 581-7285; Email: nicole.wanago@mtfccla.org.

Respectfully submitted by

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Health Sciences Education

One of our Big Sky Pathways partners, Flathead Valley Community College, is sponsoring professional development for all health science teachers in the northwest region of the state on January 14, 2014. The intent of the professional development is to re-evaluate all Pathways and bring them into compliance with Rigorous Programs of Study, focus on possible dual credit courses, and certification options for high school students. All health science/biotechnology faculty from FVCC will be in attendance to discuss their programs with teachers. School counselors have also been invited. In addition to reviewing therapeutic programs, we will be looking at Pathways in Health Informatics and Biotechnology. Travel, meals and substitute teacher costs will be paid by the college.

Our "Health Science Connection" monthly E-newsletter for Secondary and Post-Secondary Educators focuses on the Public Health Initiatives for our state. The newsletter will highlight a different public health topic, career, lesson plans for further learning, HOSA Happenings, and Area Health Education Center health care workforce pipeline activities. **If you are interested in receiving the E-newsletter, please contact Renee at the address below.**

Montana HOSA



HOSA had a very successful conversation with one of the post-secondary chapters at University of Connecticut; we talked to the vice president of the chapter, and gained some great insight on how to run our own post-secondary chapters. We are passing this info on to the current post-secondary chapters that we have in the state. Renee Harris and Megan Bones attended the second quarter CTSO meeting on December 9 in Bozeman. On December 16 HOSA had its quarterly Advisory Board Meeting in which a budget was proposed and accepted by the Advisory Board. Finally, planning for the State Conference in March is getting under way. For more information on starting a HOSA chapter, please contact Megan Bones.

HOSA information submitted by Montana HOSA State Director, Megan Bones, phone: (406) 457-8023; Email: megan@mtha.org.

To your health,

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Industrial, Trades and Technology Education

WELDING CAMP—February 25-26, 2014

Miller Electric Mfg. Co. is sponsoring a Welding Camp for a limited number of secondary welding instructors. Each instructor will be able to bring two students. The cost of the camp is \$150 per instructor, and includes all fees for two students.

The event will take place on February 25-26, 2014, at Helena College from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Classes cover GTAW, GMAW, and FCAW processes, along with Plasma Cutting. Miller Training Systems factory reps will be conducting the camp. Registration is on a first-come basis. A registration form was sent out to all instructors we have listed on the OPI Industrial, Trade and Technology distribution list.

For additional information, contact Miller Training Systems at (920) 735-4016.

SkillsUSA



Happy Holidays from SkillsUSA Montana!

As 2013 draws to a close, all of us at SkillsUSA Montana want to extend warm wishes to you and yours during this holiday season. We sincerely thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of our students, teachers and communities. Your work in support of Montana and



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Career and Technical Education truly makes a positive difference and we look forward to working with you toward another great year in 2014. Enjoy the holidays, and best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

As the holidays approached, our chapters created some wonderful community service projects. We are truly proud of our students and their advisors. Some of these great projects are listed below.

BILLINGS CAREER CENTER REPAIRS A CAR AND GIVES IT TO A FAMILY IN NEED

A car was donated to the Career Center over the summer and students there spent the semester fixing it up and getting it to run. They contacted the Montana Rescue Mission, which helped the Career Center give it to a family. Go to the following link for more on this great project.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/education/career-center-students-repair-car-donate-it-to-family-in/article_637d8271-6f08-5e6f-9baa-79a753044207.html

MSU BILLINGS NEWS — Students in the City College at MSU Billings SkillsUSA Club will offer a free vehicle winterization inspection on Saturday, December 14 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The community can bring their vehicle in to be evaluated for battery condition, safe tire pressures and conditions, proper fluid levels (including coolant), belt and hose inspection, and recommendations as needed.

"This event is an opportunity for our students to strut their stuff following the conclusion of fall semester," noted automotive technology instructor, Katherine Pfau. "City College has one of the best facilities in our region for teaching and we want to share it with our community whenever possible."

Although the Skills USA Club is offering the winterization inspection at no cost they will be accepting donations to help defer the cost of competing in the Montana SkillsUSA Competition. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry professionals working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. The 2014 state competition will be held on the MSU-Northern campus April 7-9.

For more information about this weekend's vehicle winterization event contact Katherine Pfau at 247-3044 or Stacey Williamson at 247-3008.

Great Job City College! This is a wonderful community service project and a great job of promoting SkillsUSA.

CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN THE FESTIVAL OF TREES

Intermountain's 26th Annual Festival of trees was a huge success! All events had record attendance this year and they raised over \$225,000 to benefit the children and families from the many beautifully decorated trees and wreaths.

This extraordinary event has become a tradition of Helena's holiday season while raising much needed funding for quality children's programs at Intermountain.

Photos of the Capital High School SkillsUSA Students are on our website www.skillsusamontana.org.

MILLER WELDING CAMP

Weld Camp 2014 the latest technology in welding from Miller, Hobart, Weldcraft, Tregaskiss, Bernard and Smith. Factory Reps will be on hand from ITW Welding Companies. February 25-26, 2014 • 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. • Miller Training Center – Helena College – 2300 Airport Rd, Helena, MT 59601. Cost is \$150 per participating school. This class is limited to 5 instructors and 10 students. See the flyer and registration form on our website www.skillsusamontana.org.

Training Video

We have completed the series of Advisor Training Modules. These modules are available anytime at www.SkillsUSA.org. Choose the "Educators" tab and select "Advisor Training Modules."

UPDATE ON THE STATE CONFERENCE PIN CONTEST

The Pin Contest entries are judged by our State Officers at their Leadership Meeting in January. At this meeting the State Officers have an opportunity to meet with the Governor of Montana or one of his representatives. The



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meeting date is driven by the Governor's office and this year it will be before the usual cut-off date for the Pin Contest of January 15. Please note the **new due date for this contest is JANUARY 10, 2014**. The State Officers will be meeting on January 12 to determine the winner. The winner will be announced at the State Conference.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE GRANTS

SkillsUSA Montana is offering up to \$200 to help with expenses for your chapter to attend an industry experience visit.

Requirements:

- Must be a chapter in good standing with SkillsUSA (must have chapter memberships)
- Must submit an application form (this form is on our website www.skillsusamontana.org under the forms tab.)
- Must submit an after visit report. (this report should include photos and a written description of your visit.)

TRACKING MONTHLY STUDENT SERVICE HOURS

As part of the New HB86 Funding, we will be tracking the number of hours students spend in activities. Each student in your chapter will need to track their hours every month and submit them to your designated chapter officer so they can be submitted to the State Director. Complete instructions and the form are available on our website: www.skillsusamontana.org

Your designated chapter officer will tabulate the results and submit the total hours using Survey Monkey on the first of each month. (The link to submit this report is in the file at the bottom of [this page](#) on our website.) Please feel free to have your chapter officer to contact the State Director, Cassie Huntley, with any questions or concerns. Ms. Huntley can be reached at chuntley@skillsusamontana.org or 406-502-1702. If done properly this should not cause the chapter advisor any additional work as this is to be completed by your designated chapter officer.

SkillsUSA information submitted by Montana SkillsUSA State Director, Cassie Huntley, cell phone: (406) 461-5016; Email: casshuntley@montanaskillsusa.com.

Montana TSA



Technology Student Association attended the 2nd quarterly meeting in Bozeman, finding out that we were not as far behind as we thought we were. We are prepping to present at the Governor on January 13th.

We are finalizing the contests for our leadership conference and making contacts for the Summer update conference. The officers and advisors are completing the leaderships training information for the chapter advisors and officers.

TSA information submitted by Montana TSA Co-State Directors, Craig Todd, cell phone: 406.690.2524; Email: craig@crystalcnc.com and Dwight Freeman, cell phone: 406.671.6992; Email: Dwight_freeman@yahoo.com.

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